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A SUMMER JAUNT IN 1773.

CONTRIBUTED BY REV. GEORGE MORGAN HILLS, D.D.

[The title to the original MS. which the Rev. Dr. Hills has kindly contributed is: "Journal of a tour from Philada. to Bethelam, &c. In Company with Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Miss. Kitty and Miss. Nancy Laurence and Mr. E. Laurence." Unfortunately the writer is unknown, but is presumably the W . . . of the text. The annotations have been added by the Editor.]

August 15, 1773, Sunday.—Left Philada. about 7 o'clock Morning, Arrived at Abington $\frac{1}{2}$ past nine, the roads but Indifferent, (12 miles). House kept by Paul tolerable, brekfast pretty good.¹ Left Abington about 11 o'clock A.M., arrived at Jamison's $\frac{1}{4}$ past 3 P.M.² great part of the road hilly & rough—The House at Jamison's (15 miles) neat and clean, Dinner very indifferent, Claret so called, very bad. At five o'clock P.M. left Jamisons, and at 8 P.M. arriv'd at Wilson's.³ Road indifferent, Supper at Wilson's very good, Wine Lisbon, good, Spirits very good, no Candles in the House, the People dirty, the House swarming with Buggs—no sleep. 13 miles.

August 16, Monday. Six o'clock left Wilson's d——d dirty house, and $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 A.M. arrived at Kogers.⁴ Breakfast

¹ As early as 1768, John Paul was the proprietor of the inn with the sign of the Wagon, at the intersection of the old York with the Easton Road, near the present village of Willow Grove. Later it was called the Red Lion, and was considered the "best hostelry between the Rising Sun and Coryell's Ferry."

² In 1772, Mary Jamison's name appears in the "Assessors list of the Innkeepers of Buckingham township, Bucks County." The locality was long known as Centreville, but has again returned to its old name,— "Jamisons."

³ John Wilson was landlord of the "Sign of the Harrow," on the Durham Road, in Nockamixon township, Bucks Co., at the date of this Journal.

⁴ Joseph Kookan [not Kogers] was the landlord of the inn, on the
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good, people oblidging, House neat and a handsome young Landlady. Road hilly, $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 A.M. left Rogers. 16 miles.

At two P.M. arriv'd at Bethelam, put up at Jost, ye only Inn in Town,¹ Dinner bad, met with Mr. Clem. Biddle,² his sister Miss Nancy Biddle and Miss Nancy Roberts of Philada., joining our Company, both sprightly, agreeable Quaker Girls. About 4 P.M. we were joined by Mr. E. Laurence and his Sister Miss Nancy Laurence of Chestnut Grove, Monmouth County³ and Mr. and Miss Emly, which completed our party.

This afternoon Mr. Horsly [Horsfield]⁴ waited on the Company, and in the evening conducted us to see ye Meeting of the Society at their Church, Solemn and devout; Supper pretty good, Wine good, also Punch, beer indifferent.⁵

Tuesday 17th. Breakfast good; this Day the Company visited the different appartm^{ts} of the Moravians, viz. The single Sisters, Widows, the single Brothers, the places of Worship, Water Works, Garden, Mills &c. All which give much satisfaction, being accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Gar-

"old Bethlehem Road" south of the mountain, in Upper Saucon township, Northampton County.

¹ The Sun Inn. Just Jansen [Johnson] was landlord, 1771 to 1781. He was a Dane by birth, and for a number of years a mariner. The building, modernized, stands on Main near Broad Street.

² See "The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians, now Deceased," p. 81.

³ Elisha Lawrence, subsequently Colonel First Regiment New Jersey (Royal) Volunteers. "Chestnut Grove" tract was part of the "Manor of Buckhole."

⁴ Joseph, son of Timothy Horsfield, the well-known "Squire" of Bethlehem.

⁵ The Marquis de Chastelleux, when in America, 1780-1782, visited Bethlehem. The translator of his "*Voyages dans l'Amérique Septentrionale*," in a foot-note refers to the inn, . . . "it was not inferior to the best of the largest in England . . . we were constantly supplied with venison, moor-game, the most delicious read and yellow-bellied trout, the highest flavored wild strawberries, luxuriant asparagus . . . notwithstanding the difficulty of procuring good wine at that time throughout the continent, we were here regaled with wine and brandy of the best quality, and exquisite old Port and Madeira."

rison¹ who beheaved with a great deal of politeness, and was very obliging. To night went to their meeting; this Day the Female Children at Dinner; very neat and great decorum, Dinner at Jost pretty good; Mr. Horsly [Horsfield] dined with the Company; Supper good; the Company in good Spirits, and seemingly agreeable to each other.

Wednes. 18th. Set out this Morning at 7 A.M. for Nazareth, and Mr. Biddle, Miss Biddle and Miss Roberts w^t Mr. Emly and his Neice parted with us, they for Easton (6 miles) &c. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 A.M. arrived at Christⁿ Spring² visited the Farm, saw & Grist mill, Distillery, &c. Every thing neat and in good Order, were very kindly Treated by Mr. Freindly where we had a very good Breakfast, Mr. Oakely³ accompany'd us to the Farm (a sensible well beheav'd man;) arriv'd at Nazareth about 12 o'clock; visited the House,⁴ which is a neat plain Building, some tolerable paintings in it, went thro' the Boy's School,⁵ saw them knitting, not fit

¹ Nicholas Garrison, a member of the Staten Island family of the name. His wife's maiden name was Mary Ann Brandt. For many years he was a sea-captain of repute. In 1763 he selected Bethlehem for the home of his declining years, where he lived in retirement, save that for a short time he served the town in the capacity of *cicerone*. It was he who gave the name of "Nisky" to the wooded heights that skirt the southern limits of Bethlehem,—a favorite resort for visitors and residents of the town.

² Christian's Spring (named for a son of Count Zinzendorf) was a Moravian settlement on the "Barony of Nazareth," between 1749 and 1796, to the west of the town of Nazareth. Many of the old buildings are still standing.

³ John Okely was a native of Bedford, O. E., and came to Pennsylvania with the first Moravian colony in 1742. For many years he was the scrivener and conveyancer of the church. In 1774 he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace by Gov. John Penn; and in the Revolutionary period appointed Assistant Commissary in the Continental service. He withdrew from the Moravians.

⁴ Now familiarly called the "Whitefield House," and occupied jointly by the Moravian Historical Society and Missionary Home.

⁵ Nazareth Hall was originally built for a residence of Count Zinzendorf, who was expected to make a second visit to Pennsylvania in 1755. From 1759 to 1779 it was used as a boarding-school for sons of Moravian parents, and since 1785, as a boarding-school under Moravian control.

work for Boys; left Nazareth $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 P.M. On our way to Easton lost our road, arriv'd at Easton about 4 P.M. (6 miles) put up at Rinker's;¹ Dinner indifferent, Wine not good, a neat Court House here the only thing worth remarking, the Town lies very low at the Junction of leighy [Lehigh] and N. East branch of Delaware—Supper pretty so so Mr. Gordon² supp'd with us—Beds pretty good and clean, the People tolerable obliging.

Thursdy : 19th. Left Easton on our return to Bethelhem about 7 o'clock A.M. at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 arriv'd at Bethelhem, (10 miles) the road good, Journey agreeable, killed some Pigeons; breakfast at Bethelhem good; Mr. Laurence and I walked out with our Guns, no Sport, Joined by Mr. Edwards and Mr. Vaux of Philada.³ who dined with us, Dinner good, the Company in high spirits. Went to Fish on ye Leheigh, not much Sport, this Evening the Ladys accompanied by Mrs. Garrison, went to view Hermitage,⁴ Mrs. Garrison displeased at my not going with them, a very good Supper, poor Lawry Grogan was much frightened this evening by a Negro's Head appearing in his bed, the good deeds of some of the Girls who thought he had best have a bed-fellow, they thought fit to sow my bed with some Oats & a Lanthorn to signify I wanted to be enlightened, merry little Rogues!

Friday 20. Set out this morning with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Lawry Grogan on a fishing party &c to the Saucon where we killed some trout, and also Pidgeons. Mr. and Mrs. Garrison Dined with the Compy, and drank Tea with them. Supper but indiffen^t this evening, went early to Bed, purposing to set out on the following morning for Reading,

¹ John Rinker's name appears in the list of innkeepers of Easton; Assessor's return to June Sessions of Court 1773.

² Query. Lewis Gordon, the first lawyer admitted to practice in the courts of Northampton Co.

³ Probably James Vaux, father of Roberts Vaux, a Vice-President of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁴ Also called the "Old Man's Place," is now incorporated within the grounds of the Lehigh University. For years it was a favorite resort of the people of Bethlehem on pleasant summer afternoons.

the Town of Bethelim stands on the Banks of the River Lehigh on a hill with a pretty decent to the Water, and from the Opposite Bank of the River, has a very pretty appearance, the whole Town is settled by Moravians who began it about Thirty Years ago, they seem to be an Industrious Inofensive people much addicted to particular forms and Ceremonies and in some respects resembling the Roman Catholicks. The unmarried of both Sexes have seperate houses and have no intercourse with each other; sure it never was the design of the Wise disposer of all things, that the Loveliest part of the Creation should thus be Cloistered up, as they were undoubtedly given to smooth the rugged path of Life, and to soften the turbulent temper of the other Sex: to be without their agreeable Company and Conversation is not to live!

The only Tavern kept here as before observed is Jost as the people are extreemly oblidging, the House clean & in general what you may have occation for in eating or drinking pretty good,¹ the place I think must be Healthy from its Situation, which is pretty high.

Saturday 21. Left Bethelam about 7 o'clock morning. Arrived at Allentown (6 miles) about 9, stop'd at the Sign of the King of Prussia, the House stunk so badly that we could not remain in it, and had it not been for the kindness of Mr. Backhouse,² who invited the Company to take Breakfast with him, must have gone without, but we were Strangers & he took us in for which he has our Blessing. Allentown is a pretty Situation but it seems to be a poor place. $\frac{1}{2}$ past ten left Allentown, and at $\frac{1}{2}$ past two arrived at Levan's (10 miles) where we had such a Dinner as Travellers must

¹ The first inn erected by the Moravians on the Bethlehem tract was the Crown, in 1745, which stood on the south side of the Lehigh below the present bridge, and was open for guests at the date of this Journal. The second was the Sun. Before the erection of the Crown, guests were entertained in the "Gemeinhaus,"—special apartments being reserved for the purpose.

² Richard Backhaus, later of the Durham Iron Works, Bucks County, was an innkeeper at this date.

often put up with,¹ and might have thought it better had the Landlady come in without her eyes which were none of the prittiest to behold. The House did not seem remarkably clean, but may do to stop at for an Hour or so. At $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 P.M. left Levan's, and at Six o'Clock were obliged to stop being catch'd in a heavy Gust we were kindly receiv'd by Mr. Parvin² who much wanted us to stay with him all Night, but as it cleared up a little we pushed on, and about Seven o'Clock arrived at Shobers, (10 miles) where we got something to revive our Spirits being a little down by the heavy Rain we were catch'd in, the House from appearance promised something good, but alas! we are often deceived by appearances, for it is the dirtiest House without exception in the Province, every room swarming with Buggs; Lawry Grogan slept in the midst of them as tho' he had been on a Bed of down, and of the cleanest kind, for my part if I did not pray all Night, I surely watched as Sleep was intirely banished from my Eyes, for tho' I enclosed myself in a Circle, (not indeed made with an enchanted wand), yet made by what I thought would have answered better, the grease of a Candle, it did not save me from their devourations, which ended not but with the Night, this is a House by all travellers (who would chuse to lie in a whole skin), to be shuned; the fellow who keeps it, is an impertinant imposing Scoundrel, having the impudence to charge us in his Bill Five Shillings for his attendance, (non-attendance he ought to have said), as he came not near us.

Sunday 22. Left this dreary mantion about 7 o'clock this morning & arrived at Reading about $\frac{1}{2}$ past Eight, put up at Wilkinsons, where we got a very comfortable breakfast.³ This Day took a Walk round the town, which is prittily laid out the Streets being pritty wide & Cutting each other in

¹ Daniel Levan's Inn was located on the road surveyed by David Shultze from Easton to Reading in 1755, where it is intersected by the New Mexatawney Road.

² Query. Francis Parvin on Maiden Creek.

³ Peter Withington's (not Wilkinson) name is registered among the innkeepers of Reading at this date.

right Angles, but it lies low being entirely surrounded by high hills—the Schukill runs close by it, and has an agreeable appearance.

Monday 23. This Morning Mr. Mitchel and Lawry Grogan set out for the Country, and Mrs. Mitchell, Miss N. Laurence, Miss K. Laurence, and I. (W.) sent out for the top of Mount Parnassus, which after many difficulties & hair breadth escapes we at last achieved, it is a high Mountain which over looks Reading, and from the Summit of which you have a very extensive view of the circumjacent Country, but unfortunately for us, the Day was not clear, so that we were in great measure deprived of the pleasure we promised ourselves.

This Day Mr. Read¹ dined with us, he is a lively facetious Old Gentleman, and was obliging enough to take us a Walk thro' a pretty garden he has.

Tuesday 24. This morning we left Wilkinson's [Withington's] on our route to Lancaster, it is a good House, Victuals good and well dressed, wine exceeding good, and the people obliging, about Eight o'clock left Reading, and at half past ten arriv'd at Reamstown,² where we stoped to Breakfast, we being strangers made enquiry for the Best Tavern which we were shown to, but bad is the best, as everything was very dirty, however Necessity has no law, so we're oblidg'd to make the best we could of it. About one o'clock we arriv'd at ye Dunker's Town³ and having a letter to the Superior, he was good enough to conduct us thro' the different appartments of the House, they seem to be a poor inofensive people, bigoted to certain forms and ceremonies, and eat nothing that has had life in it, saying, all Animals are their Brethren, odd whimsies, however, as they are certainly inoffensive, they ought to be allowed to enjoy them in peace, about 5 o'clock this afternoon arrived at Lancaster, put up at Slough's, a very good House

¹ See "The Provincial Councillors of Pennsylvania," etc., p. 190.

² East Cocalico township, Lancaster County, formerly called "Zoar."

³ Ephrata, the seat of the Seventh-Day Baptists.

victuals well dressed, wine good.¹ Lancaster stands upon rising ground, the streets are regular and pritty wide, intersecting each other at rightangles, there are some pritty good Buildings here and the Town may contain about Seven Hundred Houses.

Wednesday 25. Left Lancaster about 3 o'clock afternoon, fine pleasant Day, in good spirits, but alas! a sad accident had like to have turned our mirth into mourning for W . . . driving careless, and being happily engaged with the Lady he had the pleasure of riding with, and not mindfull enough of his charge, drove full against a large stump which stood in the way, by which the Chair was overturned and the Lady thrown out to a Considerable distance, but happily receiv'd no hurt, this evening about 8 o'clock arriv'd at Douglass'² where supped and rested all night, the Supper pretty tollerable, beds indifferent, being short of Sheets for the Beds—the Woman was good enough to let W . . . have a table-cloth, in lieu of one.

Thursday 26. About 7 o'clock left Douglass'—hitherto we had been fav^d since our first Setting out with pleasant Weather, but this Morning threatned us with the reverse it being hazy. About ten o'clock arrived at the Ship,³ where we breakfasted, which was good, the People obliging and the House clean and decent; at Eleven o'clock set out, about one o'clock we stop'd at the Admiral Warren⁴ where Mr. Mitchell was taken so ill as obliged him to go to Bed, having something of an Ague, with much reluctance, we left him & Mrs. Mitchell there, and proceeded on to Stradel-

¹ Matthias Slough was the popular landlord, between 1761 and 1806, of the "White Swan," on Queen Street near the Square. He was also Coroner of the County, 1755-68; Assistant Burgess, 1761; a member of the Committee of Observation of the borough, 1774; and member of the Assembly, 1774-83. Died at Harrisburg, Sept. 12, 1812.

² On the old Lancaster Road, west of St. John's Church, and between "Miller's" and "the Hat."

³ The well-known hostelry on the old Lancaster Road, a short distance west from Downingtown.

⁴ Near the present Duffryn Mawr, Chester County, and between the "Blue Bell" and "White Horse."

berger's during which time it rained very heavy upon us which was the more disagreeable as the Ladys were much exposed thereto, neither of the Chairs having tops. Soon after our arrival at Stradelberger's we were agreeably surprised by the arrival of Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell, he having got a little better, about 4 o'clock left Stradelberger's and were all the way to town in a very heavy rain, but happily the Ladies good constitutions prevented any bad effects following their being so much wet, about 8 o'clock we arrived at Mr. Mitchell's to the great joy of all concerned, after having escaped many perils by Land and by Water such as are already recited in this true and faithful Journal—and being absent from our Families & kindred so long a time as twelve days, and further this Journalist saith not. Number of miles travelled 210.—